



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

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## CONCEPT NOTE

### 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REGIONAL PLANNERS' CONVENTION & KILIFI COUNTY LAND CLINIC

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**10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**



**DIAMONDS DREAM OF AFRICA,  
MALINDI**

**“TRANSFORMATIVE PLANNING FOR PEOPLE,  
LAND AND COUNTRY: STRENGTHENING LAND  
GOVERNANCE, FOOD SYSTEMS AND CLIMATE  
RESILIENCE THROUGH INCLUSIVE  
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING”**

## SUMMARY OUTLINE

<b>Conference</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Planners Convention</b> on Transformative Planning for People, Land and Country
	<b>Date:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> November, 2025
	<b>Venue:</b> Diamonds Dream of Africa, Malindi
<b>Theme Key Pillars Mode</b>	Transformative Planning for People, Land and Country: Strengthening Land Governance, Food Systems and Climate Resilience through Inclusive Development Planning
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening land governance and equitable access</li> <li>2. Inclusive food systems and people-centered planning</li> </ol> Restoration, biodiversity and ecosystem governance
	In person attendance
<b>Participants</b>	500-600 participants
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To strengthen the capacities of land governance and planning actors at the grassroots level in Kilifi County</li> <li>2. To foster cross-border knowledge sharing and networking in planning for integrated food systems</li> <li>3. To assess the status of regional cooperation and examine opportunities for regional collaboration in planning</li> <li>4. To present best practices and case studies of land governance reforms and sustainable food system strategies</li> <li>5. To advance multi-stakeholder partnerships that scale up sustainable solutions</li> <li>6. To develop actionable planning resolutions and issue a joint communique to the EAC</li> </ol>
<b>Counties Dialogue on Land Use Planning and Land Governance- Kilifi County Edition</b>	<b>Date:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
	<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025:</b> Sensitization meeting with organized groups and community leadership
	<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025:</b> Sub- County Planning Clinic Walk-ins

## BACKGROUND

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Planners Regional Convention is being organized by the Kenya Institute of Planners (KIP) in partnership with the Council of Governors (COG), Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), among other partners.

Kenya Institute of Planners successfully hosted the 18th Annual Planners Conference on November 25<sup>th</sup> to November 29<sup>th</sup> 2024, which focused on the theme, “Planning Towards Sustainable Food Systems and Ecosystems Management: Realizing a Food Secure and Productive Nation”. The conference generated 14 broad resolutions towards achievement of a food secure nation.

Following the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Planners Conference, Kenya Institute of Planners and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, National Land Commission (NLC) and the Council of Governors (CoG) initiated the Counties Dialogue on Land Governance and Land Use Planning which focuses on strengthening the capacities of land governance and planning actors at the grassroots level. This locally-grounded program is serving as a practical bridge between policy conversations and community-centered action.

As part of the build-up to the 19th Annual Planners Convention, KIP, FAO, COG and the above partners will host a three-day **Kilifi County Land Clinic** from **4th to 6th November 2025**. This activity, under the broader Counties Dialogue on Land Use Planning and Land Governance program, is designed to deepen grassroots engagement and strengthen technical capacity on critical land governance issues in Kilifi County. It exemplifies the conference’s commitment to bridging national and regional policy with local practice and will generate real-time insights to shape the convention’s discussions and resolutions.

For the 19th Annual Planners Conference, KIP aims to expand the conversation on sustainable food systems by positioning the conference as a **regional event**, targeting **East African participants** from various policy and decision quarters, Development Partners, Professional Associations, Statutory authorities, Investors, donors, NGOs, Civil Society and other key stakeholders to explore innovations for sustainable food systems.

The convention is to be held at **Diamonds Dream of Africa** in **Malindi Town, Kilifi County** from **10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2025**, targeting 500-600 participants.

## THEMATIC OVERVIEW

The proposed theme for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Planners Conference is “**Transformative Planning for People, Land and Country: Strengthening Land Governance, Food Systems and Climate Resilience through Inclusive Development Planning**” which reflects a timely call to action. It emphasizes the role of inclusive planning in securing land rights, enhancing food systems and promoting resilience in Kenya and East Africa.

The theme builds upon the momentum of the 18th Annual Planners Conference by elevating land governance as a cross-cutting enabler of sustainable development. It recognizes that land is not only a resource but also a foundation for equity, productivity and environmental integrity. As such, land governance must be reimagined to serve the interconnected needs of people, livelihoods and ecosystems amidst the growing pressures of rapid urbanization and climate instability.

Notably, the theme is aligned with global and continental development frameworks, including the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, the **African Union's Agenda 2063** and **Kenya's Vision 2030**. It supports **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** and **SDG 15 (Life on Land)** by promoting strategies that connect land, livelihoods and ecosystems.

In this context, the **Counties Dialogue and Land Clinics on Land Use Planning and Land Governance** offers vital insights into how community engagement, technical expertise and policy dialogue can converge to address land governance challenges in a people-centered way. This program is operationalizing inclusive, ecosystem-sensitive land governance and is a demonstration of how land reforms for sustainable food systems can be driven from the ground up. These learnings inform the conference's regional lens and underscore the value of inclusive land governance in achieving sustainable food systems.

The conference will therefore provide a strategic platform for planners, policymakers, development partners, academics, civil society and communities to share insights, co-create solutions and forge new partnerships. Ultimately, the 19th Annual Planners Conference aims to catalyze transformative planning practice that positions land governance, sustainable food systems and climate resilience at the core of inclusive development; offering practical pathways toward a greener and more just future for Kenya and the broader East African region.

## KEY PILLARS

The 19th Annual Planners' conference is grounded in inclusive development planning, and will showcase innovative approaches that respond to Kenya's and East Africa's evolving planning challenges; particularly at the intersection between land rights, food security and environmental sustainability. To drive this agenda, the conference will be structured around three key pillars. These pillars are not only strategic focus areas but also reflect the lessons from the Counties Dialogue on Land Use Planning and Land Governance, as well as other practical experience and emerging priorities across the region.



Pillar	Thematic Areas
<b>A. Strengthening land governance and equitable access</b>	1. Land tenure reform and legal innovations for equitable land access
	2. Digitization of land records and interoperable land information systems
	3. Transparent land administration and value capture for public benefit
	4. Inclusive land governance: Lessons from the Counties Dialogue and Land Clinics
	5. AI/Technological approaches
<b>B. Inclusive food systems and people-centered planning</b>	1. Community-led land use planning for food and nutrition security
	2. Safeguarding agricultural land in peri-urban and rural landscapes
	3. Urban food governance and inclusive access to food markets
	4. Nutrition-sensitive spatial strategies
	5. Urban food systems and People-centered planning
	6. AI/Technological approaches
<b>C. Restoration, biodiversity and ecosystem governance</b>	1. Innovative community approaches for ecosystem-based land use planning
	2. Planning for transboundary ecosystems and shared environmental assets
	3. Watershed, forest and rangeland planning for community-based resilience
	4. Multi-stakeholder governance of natural resources
	5. AI/Technological approaches
	6. Planning for restoration of natural resource systems for food security

## TARGETED AUDIENCE

### **Kilifi County Land Clinic**

#### **I. Facilitators**

- Kenya Institute of Planners
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Council of Governors
- Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development
- National Land Commission
- County Planners

#### **II. Community**

- National Government Administration Officers (Chiefs, County Commissioners etc.)
- Organized groups (Residential associations, Community-based Organizations, Youth groups etc.)

### **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Planners Convention**

The conference will target over 500 participants (in person) from across Kenya and the East African region. The event seeks to engage a diverse range of actors involved in land governance, spatial planning, food systems and policy development.

#### **I. Professional Planning Institutes & Associations (East Africa)**

- Kenya Institute of Planners (KIP)
- Tanzania Planners Registration Board (TPRB)
- Society of Professional Physical Planners of Uganda (SPPPU)
- Rwanda Urban Planners Institute (RUPI)
- Geographic Institute of Burundi (IGEUB)
- Ethiopian Urban Planning Associations (EUPA)
- Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)

#### **I. National and County Government Institutions**

#### **II. Council of Governors**

#### **III. Regional Institutions**

#### **IV. Development Partners and International Agencies**

#### **V. Academic and Research Institutions**

#### **VI. Private Sector and Professional Firms**

#### **VII. Civil Society, Community Organizations, and Advocacy Groups**

#### **VIII. Media and Communication Partners**

## ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

### 1. Pre-Conference Activity: Kilifi County Land Clinic

As a strategic prelude to the 19th Annual Planners Convention, the Kenya Institute of Planners, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHPWUD), the National Land Commission (NLC), and Kilifi County Government, will convene a **three-day County Land Clinic** from **4th to 6th November 2025**.

#### Day 1 (Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025): County-Level Sensitization Forum

Held on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**, this high-level session will bring together organized groups; civil society organizations, county officials, resident associations, and community leadership to build shared understanding of key land governance challenges and deliver technical presentations on relevant land issues.

#### Day 2: Sub-County Planning Clinics (Walk-Ins)

On **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025**, localized clinics will be held at select sub-county centers, where community members can engage in **one-on-one consultations** with land experts.

The clinics are expected to draw participation from community members, supported by a team of facilitators from KIP, FAO, MoLHPWUD, NLC, and Kilifi County.

### 2. 19<sup>TH</sup> Annual Regional Planners Convention

Key activities and events during the conference from **10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025** at **Diamonds Dream of Africa** will include;



High-level Keynote  
Addresses  
(Convention Opening and  
Closing Day)



Plenary Sessions  
(presentations and panel  
discussions by experts)



Exhibitions  
(Presentations, Branded  
Exhibition Booths, Meeting  
Areas)



Expert Panel Discussions



Awards Ceremony  
(Performance Awards on  
Planning and  
Development)



Gala Dinner

## ABOUT KIP

The Kenya Institute of Planners is the premier umbrella body representing professional planners in Kenya. The Institute brings together urban and regional planners, economic development planners, transportation and infrastructure planners, social and community planners, environmental planners and urban designers in Kenya.

The Institute's mission is "To Make Kenya a Planning Society" by enhancing, through collaboration with governmental and non-governmental agencies, as well as ordinary Kenyans, the art and science of sustainable national, regional and local development planning.

KIP's membership surpasses 2500 members, comprising Fellows, Corporate, Graduates and Students, Technicians and Associate Members.

Vision: **"A Foremost Professional Institute"**

Mission: **"To Make Kenya a Planning Society"** by enhancing, through collaboration with governmental and nongovernmental agencies, as well as ordinary Kenyans, the art and science of sustainable national, regional and local development planning;

Membership: **KIP's membership surpasses 2,000 members**, comprising 26 Fellows, 405 Corporates, over 1000 Graduates and 400 students, 27 Technicians and 20 associates.